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Yrrhedes

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This fan-fiction article, **Yrrhedes**, was written by Witcher190. Please do not edit this fiction without the writer's permission.

For the EAPEU version of the being see Great Ones/Yrrhedes (EAPEU)

Yrrhedes, also known as **The First Demon**, **The Dark Father**, **the Demon-God Yrrhedes**, among many other epithets, is a being originating from the Chasm (presumably another demon, like the rest), but of unknown classification. Some theorize it could be some kind of macrobe. It was worshipped by the mage organization/ cult/secret society known as the Eternal Eclipse in its various incarnations throughout history until it´s final extinction.

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Yrrhedes

Biographical Information

Birthplace	Chasm (likely)

Physical Description

Race	Either a very powerful demon or a macrobe
Gender	Male (supposedly)
Danger Class	Extremely High

Political Information

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Affiliation	Himself
Alias(es)	The First Demon, The Dark Father, the Demon-God Yrrhedes, among many other epithets
Relationships	
Lover(s)	Lilit (supposedly)
Other	Demons (children, supposedly)

Biography

Birth

Like other demons, Yrrhedes would have been born in the Chasm. The date of birth is, for obvious reasons, unknown, since time does not exist in the Chasm—at least not in any way material beings can understand it. According to the demon's own words, he was born when "*life appeared in the multiverse*," and according to other demons, all they know is that he is the oldest among them—perhaps not the oldest, but certainly one of the first. Thus, the only thing that can be stated with certainty is that he is extremely ancient, and that is all. How ancient? Only perhaps the Watchers—or perhaps not even they—only time itself could say with certainty.

Existential Crisis

At some point between his birth and the supposed birth of the rest of the demons, Yrrhedes experienced an existential crisis (or at least the closest thing to one that a being like him could have), which ultimately shaped his personal desire to achieve such vast amounts of power that he would be able to destroy everything. Since if something like him had been born, then the multiverse itself did not deserve to exist.

Supposed Birth of the Rest of the Demons

At some point after he and Lilit (another very ancient demon) came into existence, both would have grown in power, and the latter supposedly convinced him to use their essences to create servants who would gather more contaminated ether for them—thus giving rise to the rest of the demons. Yrrhedes would later come to regret this, once the other demons showed no desire to bring about the end of everything. But since this is more myth than anything else, it is unknown how much of it is actually true.

Exile

At some point after supposedly creating the rest of the demons, they, together with their mother, are said to have rebelled against their progenitor due to his desire to undo his own birth by destroy everything. And, thanks to all their combined strength, they banished him to a place that surviving cultist records refer to as the Desolate Dimension. Whether this dimension is a plane in itself or merely part of the Chasm as one of its possible demi-planes is not known for certain.

First Interaction with the World

It is unknown when his first interaction with the world took place. It is believed that it may have occurred with the merpeople, given the fact that he appears in their mythology under the same name by which he is known elsewhere. The safest thing to say is that, given the advanced nature of Great Sea Civilization magic, it is likely that the so-called Sea Witches had some form of contact with him. Brief contact, judging by how he is described in the mythology, but contact nonetheless.

Some even claim that he might have been the reason behind the separation of the "*octopus-women*," that is, the cecaelias, and the rest of the aquatic civilization known as the Deep Folk, from the merpeople—thus becoming the cause of their enmity. Although this leans more toward speculation than anything else, and may well border on pro-merpeople propaganda.

First Significant Interaction with the World

So, the first significant interaction with the world would be none other than that of the organization of the Nefandi—that is, the mage organization/cult, later the secret society known as the Eternal Eclipse—who, from likely as early as the

arrival of humans in the 230s Before the Resurrection until the 5th century After the Resurrection, had amassed an enormous amount of power by worshipping him, converting members of other races such as orcs, kobolds, goblins, and even giants to their cause. At the same time, with the power granted by demon, they had been capable of taming monsters such as basilisks and ghouls.

However, the cult's plans would be thwarted when a group of paladins and mages of the Imperium, hailing from Axen, destroyed their main temple in the Red Horn Massif.

And 20 years later, mercenaries hired by priestesses of Delibe infiltrated the temple's underground and destroyed the artifact known as the Eye of Yrrhedes, which caused the banishment of the demon back into the depths of wherever he resided, preventing him from ever touching (even through an artifact) the material world.

The Eternal Eclipse

The survivors would eventually reorganize into a secret society, which would have far more success, lasting from the 5th century to the 13th—the aforementioned Eternal Eclipse—by changing their strategy to infiltrating positions of power and recruiting adepts from influential families while expanding their network of devoted followers with promises of using the power of demons (including Yrrhedes himself) to allow humanity to ascend to a higher state.

In the 13th century, the society would achieve one of its greatest successes: bringing Yrrhedes into the material plane through a host, a new adept, the Ebbinger mage called Brianna Vassermiller. This, ironically—together with other factors, though this being the key one—would end up causing the downfall of the organization by the end of it. As the demon sought revenge for having been banished, and Brianna provided it to him in exchange for power to save Ebbing from it´s various problems. She became the longest-lasting host he ever had as well the only one officially recorded, since the names of others hosts he had before her in the world and the multiverse, have been lost to time.

The Demon's Plans and His Possible End

Seeing his host's resilience, Yrrhedes began to devise plans to manifest in the material plane without the need for one. He corrupted his host down to the very core in order to achieve this. And he almost succeeded, causing small

manifestations in Ebbing which, had they continued, would have been disastrous. These manifestations resembled similar ones mentioned in the merpeople's mythology. Which might indicate that, if there is a grain of truth in said mythology, he had once managed to be in the world, but was likely expelled by the Sea Witches.

Luckily, Brianna became aware of this, which—together with many other factors—would lead not only to a deep depression, but to multiple attempts to end her own life in order to not only end her suffering, but also send the demon back to wherever he had come from, until the struggle between host and demon finally forced her into a state of lethargy, from which she would awaken in 1356. Whether the demon was expelled from her body or not remains a mystery.

Since, in 1358, with the arrival of the Second Conjunction of the Spheres, Brianna would leave this world for another, and—so far as is known—no new manifestations of the demon were ever recorded again.

Appearance

Given that he is likely a generalist demon it is most probable that Yrrhedes had no specific form in his natural environment, or that—like in the case with Greater Demons—if he did have one, he was capable of changing it at will.

The most commonly recorded form (that is, the one by which he was perceived by his cultists) was that of an enormous black sphere that sometimes shone like a sun, bearing a large amber-colored eye. Hence why certain iconography came to be used to represent him.

Iconography

Yrrhedes possessed highly varied
iconography throughout the ages,
therefore there is no fixed image that represents him in the world. The most popular one (due to having become public knowledge) was the amber eye during the time of the Imperium in what is now modern Etolia (not to be confused with the later Nilfgaardian Empire) that symbolized how Yrrhedes saw everything from the Abyss. After that, the second most popular depiction was that of a black bull with grey eyes, used by certain cults and apocalyptic sects to represent him, as he would have been, as mentioned earlier the "*Dark Father*" who, together with another

possible demon, Lilit, the "*Dark Mother*," supposedly engendered the rest. The third depiction was that of the sun (not to be confused with the Curse of the Black Sun), used only among members of the reformed version of the original cult, that is, the Eternal Eclipse. It symbolized one of the elements necessary for, as the name suggests, the eternal eclipse they wanted to bring upon the world.

Origins

To learn about the mythological origins of Yrrhedes, see the following articles: Nordling Religion, Zerrikanian Religion and Merpeople Religion

According to different mythologies, such as the Nordling, Zerrikanian and Merpeople ones, Yrrhedes was a god, created like any other deity under various circumstances. But this is improbable. For the simple reason that what Professor Esparza proposed is far more likely to be true based on the proofs he gave about how the Chasm would work.

Thus, the safest conclusion is that Yrrhedes is an sentient conglomeration of contaminated ether, like the other demons, which later came to be called a "*god*" simply because—*if not the first*—it was one of the earliest such conglomerations to form in the Chasm. This, following Professor Esparza's compositive hypothesis, would have granted it an inherent advantage over demons that emerged afterwards, thereby explaining its epithet as a "*god*", even though in truth, it is the apex predator of that plane, rather than a deity.

Personality

According to various surviving records, Yrrhedes—unlike other demons, such as a certain mirror merchant with his good manners and etiquette—is, although extremely intelligent and cunning, a brutish, deeply selfish being, as well as arrogant, overbearing, manipulative, and utterly amoral; there is no act of cruelty or sadism that is beneath him. His only goal, according to these records, is to grow so powerful that nothing remains but him—him, and no one but him. He hates all life for the simple reason that life created him, even if inadvertently.

He is a master of disguise and can feign kindness on occasion, even understanding, but in truth, all of that is merely a façade hiding what he truly is and what his goals are: to put an end to that which gave rise to him so he may

finally have peace. He values nothing and no one, for no thing or concept has any reason to exist. To him, destroying everything is, in the end, doing it a favor—because if "*the whole*" was capable of indirectly creating him and the rest of the demons as mentioned before, then it does not deserve to live, precisely for having created him and later the rest of his kin. It deserves only to be annihilated until the only thing left is him, and probably an eternal dream, or his own metaphysical corpse decaying until its eventual end as well.

Powers

Being likely the strongest demon ever recorded, and a generalist-type demon, Yrrhedes possesses a wide array of powers, including that of the Nemeta and Chasm Magic users of summoning monsters, with two caveats: one unique to him, and another shared with all other demons.

The unique one stems from his probable condition as a generalist demon, which means that—although he is brutally devastating and capable of granting mortals practically anything they wish—he is limited on many fronts by not possessing extensive capability in certain areas that other demons, born from corrupted ether tied to specific concepts, would possess. (Though, in Yrrhedes' defence, all of these demons also carry similar caveats: they excel only at what they were born from. A greed-born demon, for instance, has power strictly tied to material matters when manifesting on the material plane.)

The other caveat is the one common to all demons: if they have possessed a body, they inherit the limitations of that body. For example: If the host cannot use magic, they will be unable to cast spells. If the host can use magic, the demon will be able to cast Chasm Magic through them, but only up to the host's own capacity.

Purpose

Setting mythologies aside and his role in them, Yrrhedes' most probable purpose is the same as that of other demons but to greater scale: the total control of a material plane (or multiple planes), so that material beings, like livestock, would generate contaminated ether to feed him and increase his power, thus preventing his downfall at the hands of other demons. So he can achieve his goal, as mentioned before, of destroying everything, including, most likely,

himself as well.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Despite being a being so powerful that many consider it a kind of divinity, he cannot—just like most other demons—manifest in the material plane unless a series of conditions are met (hence why many believe him to be one). Ironically, he possesses a weakness that lesser demons do not, precisely because of the immense power he holds: he requires massive, very specific circumstances to do so. Meanwhile, a lesser demon or even a greater demon can manifest with relative ease, taking advantage of ether areas to enter the material plane once summoned through goetia, and then freely wander the world while harvesting souls to generate the corrupted ether they feed on and grow stronger, periodically resting in such areas to avoid dematerializing and returning to the Chasm.

However, in his favor, he *can*, just like many other demons, as mentioned before, possess bodies, using them as hosts (even if they don't last long), thus allowing him to exert his influence directly in the world. He also possesses the ability to, to a certain extent, leak part of his essence into his cultists through objects—something other demons cannot do, as they can only enchant items with Chasm Magic. The most famous example is the already mentioned, Eye of Yrrhedes, an amber pyramid with an eye on it which, upon being touched, granted the demon limited control over the one who held it, allowing the cultist to "*have powers*" (in truth, simply letting the demon use them).

Type

We do not know what kind of demon Yrrhedes is. Given his epithet as the Dark Father, as mentioned prior, we can assume that if mythology contains even a grain of truth, he might have created certain types of demons; however, considering Professor Esparza hypothesis, the Abyss would be a brutal ecosystem, if such demons were indeed created, they would have been a minimal, almost negligible fraction — and crafted only for a very specific purpose that benefited him, since no demon would give away part of its own essence without reason.

The most likely scenario is that, if he was among the first demons, he is, as

mentioned before, a generalist-type demon who, as well already mentioned took advantage of being one of the earliest conglomerations of contaminated ether to gain self-awareness, after that, he would have spent his early existence exterminating later potential rivals before they could match him. Over time, he became so powerful that his cultists and some demons eventually regarded him as a some kind of divinity.

Image Credits

- *Yrrhedes Amber Eye* by Nano Banana Pro
- Yrrhedes Appearance by Nano Banana Pro (based on the image used as thumbnail by this Polish podcast about Oko Yrrhedesa)

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